

Barbara L. Geddis, FAIA
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Re: In Support of HBO6777 Property Tax Abatements for Certain Senior-Owned Deed Restricted

Ladies and Gentlemen:

There are so many ways the many bills in this session are trying to amend or correct the problematic 8-30G. I would much prefer a comprehensive, thoughtful reform.

But since you all seem to have no appetite for that higher ground, would this bill help to some small degree? Yes. We applaud any initiative to rein in unrealistic thresholds created in close-door, inner circle policy discussions without heterogenous public input from our many towns.

In a case that only a small number of municipalities have ever achieved a moratorium in three decades, this bill provides a small opportunity to do two good things: improve opportunities for senior residents to have decent housing and it allows some towns to slowly work toward achieving a moratorium.

Still, the facts on the ground do not match these legislative "fixes."

For smaller municipalities and towns who will not ever reach a ten percent in the foreseeable future who do not get State allocations for housing choice vouchers or money to build new housing, the train left the station three decades ago. They can never reach that top-down percentage.

This comes close to "taxation without representation" to us. When did Hartford become His Majesty's Government who "knows best" for all of its empire.

You all in public office can do a whole lot better.

But, in the meantime, any small positive is welcomed.

Best,

Barbara L. Geddis, FAIA